

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a T cell inducible factor which is a protein and which activates STAT3, the complementary sequence of which hybridizes, under stringent conditions defined as 65°C in a 3.5xSSC buffer, 0.02% Ficoll, 0.02% polyvinyl pyrrolidone, 0.02% bovine serum albumin, 25mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (pH7), 0.1% SDS, 2mM EDTA, followed by a final wash at 2xSSC room temperature, and 0.1xSSC/0.2% SDS at a temperature up to about 65°C, to at least one of SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 24 or SEQ ID NO: 25.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Original) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said molecule is cDNA.

Claim 4. (Original) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said molecule is genomic DNA.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes the protein encoded by the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

Claim 8. (Original) Expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, operably linked to a promoter.

Claim 9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Original) Expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 3, operably linked to a promoter.

Claim 11. (Original) Expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 4, operably linked to a promoter.

Claim 12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Original) Recombinant cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

Claim 15. (Original) Recombinant cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2.

Claim 16. (Original) Recombinant cell comprising the expression vector of claim 8.

Claim 17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (Original) Recombinant cell comprising the expression vector of claim 10.

Claim 19. (Original) Recombinant cell comprising the expression vector of claim 11.

Claims 20-49. (Canceled)

Claim 50. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said T cell inducible factor which activates STAT3, has a molecule weight of from about 17 to about 30 kilodaltons, as determined by SDS-PAGE.

Claim 51. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which encodes a human T cell derived inducible factor.

Claim 52. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which encodes a murine T cell derived inducible factor.

Claim 53. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a protein consisting of all but about the first 20 amino acids of the protein encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth at SEQ ID NO: 7, 8, 9, 24, 25 or 29.

Claim 54. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 53, which encodes a protein consisting of all but about the first 40 amino acids of the protein encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth at SEQ ID NO: 7, 8, 9, 24, 25 or 29.

Claim 55. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 53, which encodes all but the first 20 amino acids of the protein encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth at SEQ ID NO: 7, 8, 9, 24, 25 or 29.

Claim 56. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 53, which encodes all but the first 40 amino acids encoded by the protein encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth at SEQ ID NO: 7, 8, 9, 24, 25 or 29.